

# **Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**

## **February 2020 Newsletter**

### **Regulatory Compliance Division established within the Office of the Governor**

Governor Abbott has established the Regulatory Compliance Division and appointed Ms. Erin Bennett to serve as the Director for the new division. Ms. Bennett has worked previously as an attorney with the Texas Legislative Council and served as the policy advisor assigned to TSBEP by the Governor.

The Regulatory Compliance Division conducts an independent review of certain state licensing agencies' proposed rules, including those from the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, that affect market competition. The division, after review of a proposed rule, issues a determination letter approving or rejecting the rule. A state agency may not finally adopt a proposed rule under the division's review until the division has approved the rule.

The Regulatory Compliance Division was authorized by Senate Bill 1995 during the 86th Regular Legislative Session and is established in accordance with Subchapter C, Chapter 57, Texas Occupations Code. Senate Bill 1995 was passed in response to the United States Supreme Court's decision in *North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission* and guidance later issued by the Federal Trade Commission.

The division reviews proposed rules that affect market competition to assess their consistency with state policy as clearly articulated by the Legislature in state statute. Affected state agencies are required to

submit all proposed rules affecting market competition, including new rules, rule changes, rule repeals, and rules that the agencies propose to readopt or repeal after a review under Section 2001.039, Texas Government Code. A rule affects market competition if it would create a barrier to market participation in the state or would result in higher prices or reduced competition for a product or service provided by or to a license holder in the state. The division's review process ensures that there is sufficient legal authority for proposed rules that may be anticompetitive, thus providing important protections for Texas consumers, licensed professionals, and state boards and their volunteer members.

The division welcomes public comments on proposed rules under review. In order for comments to be considered by the division, they must be submitted to the division in writing not later than the deadline provided by the division on its webpage. In order for comments to be considered, the identity of the commenter must be clearly indicated. The division may not consider anonymous comments.

The division's webpage can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

### **Future Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council Meeting Dates**

The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council has approved meeting dates through the end of the current biennium. Those meetings dates are:

- March 2, 2020

- June 16, 2020
- August 28, 2020
- October 27, 2020
- January 12, 2021
- May 4, 2021
- August 24, 2021

All meetings will begin at 9am. The meeting dates and agendas can be accessed through TSBEP's [Important Dates](#) webpage.

### **Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council Strategic Plan Survey**

The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, of which TSBEP is a member, has begun the process of strategic planning for fiscal years 2021-2025. As part of the planning process, the Council would like to ask for your input regarding trends, conditions, opportunities, and obstacles that influence the Council as an agency as well as the practices of psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, and social work.

If you would like to participate in this survey, please [click here](#).

Survey responses must be received on or before February 28, 2020 at 5pm. Responses or comments sent or received outside of the survey or after the deadline may not be considered.

### **I Got 5! Give Back Initiative**

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 in 5 adult Texans will experience a mental health concern at some point this year. Over 20% of children ages 9-17 have a diagnosed mental illness. Given these startling statistics, access to mental health services because of lack of resources is a barrier for some Texans to receive the

care they need. The “I Got 5! Give Back Initiative” is a community collaboration focused on providing mental health services by eliminating the financial burden. Participating mental health professionals donate five (5) free therapy sessions to those who cannot afford treatment.

The initiative is a collaborative program with Here for Texas Mental Health Navigation Line, a program of the Grant Halliburton Foundation. The navigation line connects callers with mental health resources and substance abuse in Texas.

To participate email [blanca@granthalliburton.org](mailto:blanca@granthalliburton.org) or go to [www.HereForTexas.com](http://www.HereForTexas.com) and click Provider Sign-up and create your profile.

**TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS RATIFIED AT THE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2020 BOARD MEETING**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>NATURE/INFRACTION</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY ACTION</b>
Ashley Nicole Bonner, M.A.	San Antonio	The licensee failed to timely report a plea agreement regarding a criminal charge.	Administrative penalty.
Katherine S. Donaldson, Psy.D.	Waxahachie	The licensee issued a diagnosis in a report which was not based on sufficient information, techniques, and/or data to support such a conclusion.	Probated suspension, administrative penalty, and professional development.
Jerry Richard Grammer, Ph.D.	Rockwall	The licensee failed to timely report a plea agreement regarding a Class B Misdemeanor criminal charge and failed to disclose this criminal history on his renewal applications.	Administrative penalty and professional development.
Nicole R. Grandjean, Ph.D.	Plano	The licensee entered into a prohibited dual relationship.	Reprimand, administrative penalty, therapy, professional development, and passage of the jurisprudence exam.